

**Town of Chester
Conservation Commission
June 18, 2019
7:00 PM
Approved Minutes**

Present:

Chairman Chuck Myette
Kristina Snyder
Victor Chouinard
Kathleen Neff Ragsdale
Ted Broadwater

Absent:

Selectmen Liaison Stephen Landau
Baron Richardson
Aaron Hume
Deb Munson

Guests:

Eric Mitchell
Theodore Ian MacLean
Rick Sibley

Call to Order:

Chairman Myette called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Old Business

1. Review minutes – May 14, 2019 - Tabled

Line 87 was amended to 1,000.

Ms. Snyder motioned to table approval of the minutes until the next meeting. Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale seconded the motion. Mr. Myette abstained. Approved 5-0-1, so moved.

2. Treasurer's Report, Bills, Budget

Chairman Myette advised the following balances, with no new bills:

Conservation Fund Savings	\$ 79.5k
Forestry	\$ 40k
Lincoln Lane	\$ 3,059.80
CD	\$713,701.89 (will renew 6/26 and roll-over)

Mr. Chouinard moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as stated. Mr. Broadwater seconded the motion, with Mr. Myette abstaining, approved 5-0-1, so moved.

3. Subcommittee reports

A. Strategic Land Protection Committee -SLPC

Pulpit Rock Road – on hold

Raymond Road – ongoing

B. Planning Board (Chuck)

Mr. Myette noted Town of Candia wants Crowley Road rebuilt.

C. Trails (Aaron) Tabled

D. Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee (Chuck)

Mr. Myette reported a liaison is needed for this committee. Conservation members may also be needed on Trust. Spring Hill Farm Advisory Committee is putting together a Fall Festival, getting together vendors, hope to have music. Last year the Fire Department did a barbeque. Mr. Fournier is renting out the barn and fields for cattle and agreed to do several presentations.

F. Agricultural Commission (Chuck) - Tabled

Mr. Myette reported there are only 3 members left on the Agriculture Commission, so it needs new members from Conservation as well. Recently they put on a Food Scaping program at the Farm. They are looking to help with Town Fair.

G. Regulations - Tabled

H. Grants – Trails Grant

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale reported they did not get the grant from Bio-Blitz but they are considering more communities going forward.

I. Wason Pond Conservation & Recreation Commission

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale reported the barn repairs are scheduled for August. Mr. Myette added the work will be done by the Trusties. Ms. Snyder noted they prefer two Conservation liaisons and is willing to do that as well.

Mr. Broadwater noted next year will be the last Pounder event. The Legion is thinking of taking it over but not persuaded yet if know anyone who would like to talk to us. Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale suggested the Fire Department. Ms. Snyder recommended having a booth at Town Fair to raise awareness.

Mr. Chouinard reported there is a problem with beavers at Wason Pond plugging up the bridge. A temporary fence could be one solution as that would not violate the easement. Ms. Snyder will get in touch with Mr. Dalrymple.

J. Easements, Monitoring and Stewardship

Mr. Chouinard reported he hasn't had a chance to do monitoring. Mr. Chouinard discussed an interesting easement in Farmington which had an 18th Century Colonial on a 207 acre parcel, wanted full control, 160 acres "no touch." Trained to use compass to find corners of easement.

Non-Public Session pursuant to 91-A:3(II)(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community

By Roll Call, Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale motioned to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3(II)(d) consideration of the acquisition of real or personal property. Ms. Snyder seconded the motion, Mr. Myette abstained, approved 5-0-1, so moved.

The meeting room was closed to the public at 7:45 PM.

The meeting room was reopened to the public at 9:15 PM.

Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale motioned to seal the minutes indefinitely. Mr. Broadwater seconded the motion, Chairman Myette abstained, approved 5-0-1, the motion passed.

New Business

Plan Reviews

1. Eric Mitchell for Pipit Estates

Eric Mitchell appeared on behalf of Pipit Estates development and advised they had conditional approval with the Planning Board. Earlier they proposed to utilize Hampstead Water and wanted to leave part of the open space for well. The plan was changed to do individual wells and septic systems and will go back for Planning Board approval. The easement if approved will have language similar to previous easements. Mr. Mitchell indicated the easement deed must be done prior to recording plans.

Mr. Broadwater asked if this has gone to the Attorney yet? Mr. Myette indicated he did not believe so.

Mr. Myette asked who owns the 15.91 acres? Mr. Mitchell responded ownership and condo association. Owners would have a 1/8 share.

Mr. Myette indicated it would be reviewed by the attorney and then a public meeting would need to be posted, the grantor would need to get back before sending to attorney.

Miscellaneous Business

1. Election of Officers

Mr. Broadwater nominated Victor Chouinard to serve as Chair for the term of one year. Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale seconded the motion. Mr. Myette abstained. Approved 5-0-1, so moved.

Mr. Myette described the duties of treasurer: to report the funds we have, develop an annual budget, take bills, process those through Finance and notify them which account to use.

115 Mr. Broadwater nominated Kathleen Neff-Ragsdale to serve as Treasurer for the term of
116 one year. Mr. Chouinard seconded the motion. Mr. Myette and Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale
117 abstained. Approved 4-0-2, so moved.

118 Mr. Myette advised can elect another alternate and liaisons are needed to different
119 committees.

120 2. Presentation

121 Ms. Snyder reported the biologist with Fish & Game will give a presentation at no cost
122 concerning non-game animals and wildlife on July 24, 2019 at the MPR at 6:30/7:00.
123 Ms. Snyder will send out flyers by the end of the week.

124 Mr. Myette recommended having the Conservation maps to attract landowners.

125 Ms. Snyder recommended a future presentation on beavers.

126 **Next meeting: July 9, 2019**

127 **Adjournment**

128
129 Mrs. Neff-Ragsdale motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Broadwater seconded the motion, Mr.
130 Myette abstained, approved 5-0-1, so moved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 PM.

131 Respectfully submitted,

132

133

134 Daniel Hoijer
135 Recording Secretary